DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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Murderers in W. German Ministry

MORE NAZIS THAN UNDER HITLER

The vast majority of leading officials in the West German Foreign Ministry today are former nazis who served in similar positions under Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister, investigations prove.

Facts and figures obtained by GERMAN REPORT show that ambassadors and department heads in the West German foreign service include men who were personally implicated in the deportation and mass slaughter of Jews from Denmark, Belgium and Rumania, as well as in other nazi crimes.

Statistics published by the independent West German newspaper "Frankfurter Rundschau" and by the Bavarian Radio show that well over 85 percent of leading Foreign Ministry employees are former members of the nazi party — a higher proportion than during Hitler's regime.

During 1951, following strong protests from German democrats against the re-employment of nazis in key posts, West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer appointed a special commission to investigate.

To date the commission has not removed one single one of the guilty men. On March 20th the commission chairman, Dr. Franz Becker of the Free Democratic Party, told journalists in Bonn:

"It cannot be denied that in a few individual cases former nazi officials have been taken back into the service."

(Turn to page 5 for details of these "few individual cases" and quotations from their records.)

Americans reject German peace treaty

The U. S. government is not interested in negotiating a peace treaty with Germany, or in holding free all-German elections, as repeatedly proposed by the Soviet Union and the East German government, the New York Herald Tribune stated bluntly on March 24th.

Commentator Walter Lippmann, writing on the Soviet call for a peace treaty and the withdrawal of all troops from Germany stated:

"There is not much point in asking whether the Russians are in earnest. . . . We shall do far better to realise that, alas, they are very much in earnest, and that we are not now ready to negotiate with them.

"We should take a very careful look, too, at the idea of all-German elections as the preliminary to everything else. The trouble with making that idea the mainstay of our German policy is that we should find ourselves in an impossible position if our proposals were accepted and the idea had to be carried out."

Writing on the same page on the same day, Berlin correspondent Russell Hill stated:

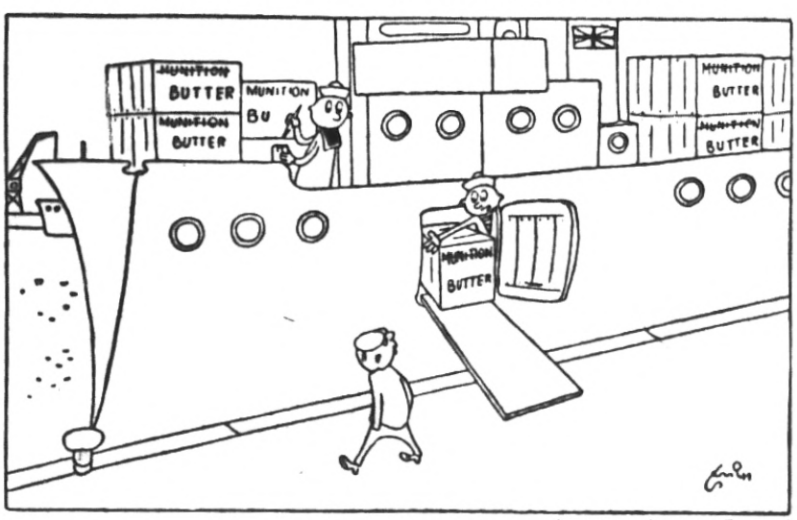
"The United States does not want free elections in Germany now because that would upset the apple cart. The apples are the Schuman Plan and the European army, including 12 German Divisions."

400,000 West Berliners Say "Ja" to Peace

Despite police terror and bans a total of 421,000 West Berliners have given their "Ja" in the plebiscite against remilitarisation and in favour of a peace treaty, the plebiscite committee announced on March 24th.

In the course of the peace campaign in West Berlin in 1951, a total of 2005 persons were arrested by the police. In the first two months of 1952 193 persons were arrested.

HAMBURG DOCKERS BAN WAR WORK



(from the Berliner Zeitung)

"Not me. I still have some chunks of that butter in my leg from last time."

MANIFESTO

To all academies and institutes for art and literature in Germany
To all German artists and writers

After years of depressing uncertainty about the fate of our country, we see at last the prospect of a peaceful future, a future worth living. On March 10th the government of the U.S.S.R. addressed a note to the governments of Great Britain, the United States of America and France, containing clear proposals for a peace treaty with Germany. These proposals are the basis for fruitful negotiations to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Every German will give serious thought to the chance which is presented to us by this initiative. The worth of a nation is not shown by preparing for war, but by its vigorous action for peace. The simple principle of self-preservation demands that we take the necessary steps. The opinions and the deeds of Germans themselves are of the highest importance for a peace treaty with Germany.

At all periods of history the German poets, thinkers and artists have been the people who gave expression to the fervent wish of their people for unity, independence and peace. One of the finest traditions of our history would be revived if we should present unanimously to the Great Powers our demand that no more obstacles should be placed in the way of the reunification of Germany; if we demanded that after long years of lack of peace and of partion we should be given the peace awaited not only by our country but by the whole world.

At this hour of great danger and of high hopes we call upon every single one of you to unite with us in expressing the wish that a real peace, created by all concerned, may come about as a result of the initiative taken by the government of the U.S.S.R.

German Academy of Arts, Berlin

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SUPPORT FOR PEACE TREATY PLEA

Prime Minister Grotewohl's Appeal

The People's Chamber, parliament of the German Democratic Republic, has given unanimous support to the Soviet proposal for the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty with an independent and united Germany.

At a special session on March 14th the deputies of the People's Chamber addressed an appeal to the West German parliament "to express their wish for the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty on the basis of the proposals made by the Soviet government."

Addressing the special session, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl called on all Germans in east and west, irrespective of party, to help bring the peace treaty nearer.

Main points from his speech included the following:

All-German Elections.

"It is impossible to conclude a peace treaty with Germany before German unity has been restored. In order that German unity may be restored peacefully Germans must reach agreement among themselves. Free elections to a constituent national assembly are the speediest way to re-establish German unity. Draft electoral laws for all-German elections are already available (in both East and West German versions, ed.) and these drafts agree on many main points."

Democratic Guarantees

"The militarism and the spirit of revenge which are raising their heads in West Germany are beginning to attack the democratic liberties of the German people. Adenauer's unconstitutional actions in negotiating an enslaving 'general treaty' behind the backs of the people, and the attacks on West German friends of peace and democracy, show how developments are moving toward an open military dictatorship."

"This proves how necessary it is to create a Germany guaranteeing democratic liberties to all citizens without distinction of race, sex or religion. It is obvious that at the same time steps must be taken to prevent the activity of organisations opposed to democracy and the cause of peace. This is in the interests of all the nations of Europe, and particularly in the interests of France.

Armed Forces

"The Adenauer government is trying to impress German youth into an American foreign legion. The proposal of the Soviet Union gives the German people the possibility to have a national armed force under German command. This proposal would give the German people the same right as that possessed by every sovereign nation.

"The German people will not be allowed to enter into any military alliance with other states, and this will mean that a German national army can never again prepare or carry out a new war, but will be used solely to defend the frontiers of Germany."

* * *

Enthusiastic response to the peace treaty call has come from all parts of Germany and from all sections of the population. The Social Democratic Party fraction in the West German parliament filed a motion calling upon the government to urge the western allies to give their very serious consideration to the peace proposals.

Dr. Gustav W. Heinemann, West German Protestant leader and former Minister of the Interior stated: "We must insist that the proposals be taken seriously. The Americans probably have no interest in taking them seriously, since they know they will get no recruits if an all-German solution is reached."

ARMY SURVEYORS EJECTED

Government surveyors measuring out grounds for a new military camp were chased off on March 24th by the people of the little town of Werl, near Dortmund in the British Zone.

The alarm was given when lorry loads of surveyors and other experts began work in the town forest of Werl, and the people, headed by town councillor Lennartz, rallied to stop this preparation for a new war.

Similar action was reported from the villages of Wengenrohr and Platten near Stuttgart in the American Zone, where preparations were being made for laying out a new military air base.

News Jobs for Girls

The government of the German Democratic Republic has urged girls leaving school this summer to learn trades traditionally reserved for men.

"Girls, you now have fully equal rights with boys in trade and technical training" the appeal said. "Learn to be lathe-hands, mechanics, builders, carpenters, glaziers and tractorists.

"Boys, you should chose economically important jobs like mining, foundry work and building."

The government appeal was part of a campaign to prepare more carefully than ever before the training of the 200,000 youth who will be apprenticed when they leave school this year. Tours of factories and model farms are being arranged for senior school classes, and boys and girls who have been training for one or two years are visiting schools and explaining their jobs.

More young people than ever before will be able to attend secondary schools and universities this year too, and the number of university scho'arships available will rise from 18,000 last year to 26,000 in 1952.

International Beethoven Ceremony

Leading musicians - from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Denmark, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and Finland were among the guests at the Beethoven Festival in Berlin in the last week of March, held in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the death of the great German composer.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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ARMS BOOM MAKES MONEY FOR NAZIS

Steel Shares Treble in Value

The western armaments boom is pouring money into the pockets of the steel and coal barons of West Germany, now in full control again of their pits and factories, official statistics disclose.

The prices of shares in coal and iron companies sky-rocketed during 1951, showing the huge profits being made. Main winners were huge concerns such as Krupp, Thyssen and Kloeckner, all of which helped to finance Hitler and which drew huge profits from the first and second world wars.

Profits will soon be further boosted by the production of heavy artillery and tanks, Associated Press reported from Bonn.

Figures published by the independent Swiss newspaper "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" show that the shares of the 25 main coal and iron companies rose in value from 1167 million marks at the end of 1950 to 2953 million marks at the end of 1951. In the same period the shares of the main banks rose in value from 246 million marks to 556 million marks.

Some steel firms have shown even more fabulous gains. Shares in the Kloeckner Trust soared from 64 marks in January 1951 to 228 marks in February 1952.

Despite British and American pledges that the Ruhr heavy industries would be denazified and decartelised, even American sources admit that the same men run the firms. Here is what the "New York Herald Tribune" of February 9th had to say about the Kloeckner Trust:

"Before and during World War II, Kloeckner Werke expanded and fattened on government armament orders. Big man of the reorganised Kloeckner Trust is Dr. Gerhard Schroeder, a 44 year-old lawyer, considered one of the rising young industrialists in the Ruhr.

"He served for three years as legal assistant to the nazi finance wizard Dr. Hjalmar Schacht. He was a nazi, attaining the rank of corporal in the nazi storm troop organisation. ... the company will soon be producing 1,200 000 tons of steel annually, which was war-time high.

"A British Ruhr expert told me that the Kloeckner Werke has just been streamlined and made more efficient . . . by decartellisation."

Washington blocks East German accounts

East German accounts with the Chase National Bank, the National City Bank, and the Manufacturers Trust Company in New York were blocked on March 11th on U. S. government orders, the Foreign Trade Ministry of the German Democratic Republic announced.

"These dollar accounts were the product of peaceful trade relations" the Ministry stated. "The powers-that-be in America, having prevented inner-German trade, are now stepping-up their measures to stop trade between the German Democratic Republic and the western European and overseas countries.

"These methods cannot prevent the building up of the peace economy in the German Democratic Republic, thanks to our large-scale trade relations with the Soviet Union, China, and the People's Democracies.

"This step will be mainly injurious to the merchants of the western countries with which the German Democratic Republic is always ready to trade."

Nighties for Tommies?

The British Army of the Rhine ordered 44,233 ladies night-dresses, 850 manicure sets, 1186 refrigerators and 40 gramophones between January and June 1951, the Finance Minister of Lower Saxony, British Zone, announced last week. All goods ordered were paid for out of occupation costs.

Harmless sleeping pills

An East Berlin chemist, Dr. Wilhelm Krauss, has succeeded in producing a completely non-poisonous sleeping-tablet, based on research into the constitution of hibernating bats, the Berlin" Neues Deutschland" reported.

PROFILE

WILHELM PIECK — CARPENTER AND PRESIDENT

Anyone who drops in at a performance of the Friendship Theatre in East Berlin, where lively plays for children are staged, may find himself sitting next to a ruddy-cheeked white-haired old man with bright blue eyes who is enjoying the play just as much as the enthralled children.

The fact that these boys and girls can look forward to a life continually getting better, without the threat of being called up as soldiers, is his work, as much as any one man is respons.ble. He has every reason to be glad and proud.

Carter's son

For nearly sixty years Wilhelm Pieck has been working and fighting for the day when young Germans could grow up in peace, with confidence in the future, and with the good wishes of Germany's neighbours. His history is the history of the decent Germany.

Born on January 3rd 1876 in the little town of Guben, son of a carter and a laundry-woman, he learned the trade of a carpenter. In 1894 he became an active member of the Woodworkers' Union, and a year later he joined the Social Democratic Party.

In Bremen, where he married and settled down, he became a respected trade union leader and teacher at workers' schools, and was elected to the Bremen City Council in 1905.

Condemned war

When the leaders of the German Social Democratic Party betrayed all their principles in 1914 and gave their support to the Kaiser's war, Pieck was one of the few clear-sighted members of the party who immediately condemned the step.

Together with Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg he began to organise those opposed to the war, and in May 1915 led the first open anti-war demonstration staged by Berlin women in front of the Reichstag, the German parliament.

Conscription into the army, service on the western front, and a five year prison sentence for refusing to obey military orders could not stop his work against war. In 1916 he managed to escape from Germany to neutral Holland, where he organised the smuggling of anti-war propaganda into Germany.

Returning to Germany illegally one month before the end of the war, he was one of the worker's leaders who signed the strike call to the Berlin workers which precipitated the fall of the Kaiser on November 9th 1918 and the end of the slaughter.

The Kaiser fled, but the generals and the big businessmen retained the reins, and organised fascist bands of reactionary officers to attack and murder the leaders of the movement for a really peaceful progressive Germany.

Escaped murder

Pieck, together with Liebknecht and Luxemburg, was seized by members of one of these gangs in January 1919, but he managed to conceal his identity, thus escaping the fate of his friends, who were slaughtered in cold blood.

Through the years between the fall of the Kaiser and the rise of Hitler, Wilhelm Pieck was in the forefront of the battle for a decent Germany. After Hitler had seized power in 1933 he led the underground anti-nazi fight of the German Communist Party, first from an illegal hide-out in Berlin itself, and later from abroad.

Unity advocate

Back in the battered Berlin of 1945 he put his entire strength into the campaign for a united working class party which would make the rise of a new Hitler impossible. Only a year later he was able to see the fruits of his labour in the Socialist Unity Party, created by the fusion of the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party.

When the German Democratic Republic was formed in October 1949, Wilhelm Pieck was the obvious choice for President.

Today, active despite his 76 years, he is working and struggling as hard as ever for a peace treaty for a united independent Germany.

A warning to the world, which he gave in 1937, is as true today as it was then:

"The German militarists aim to light the fires of war not only in the east, but also in the west. They aim their policy of war against France, against Britain, against Belgium as well as against the Soviet Union."

His words fell on deaf ears then. Will they today?

Cyclists for Peace

Tour of Eastern Europe

The eastern European international "Peace Cycle Race" will this year pass through the German Democratic Republic for the first time.

In previous years the race, in which the best amateur cyclists from all parts of Europe compete, has been confined to Poland and Czechoslovakia.

This year, following a suggestion made by Polish sportsmen, the route will also pass through the German Democratic Republic and Berlin, as a sign of the great desire for peace of the German people too.

The cyclists taking part will set out from Warsaw on April 30th, cross into the German Democratic Republic at Goerlitz on May 4th, and leave the Republic again on May 10th.

They will pass through Berlin and Leipzig, and in planning the route great care has been taken to see to it that it passes through the main industrial areas.

The riders will cross the finish line in Prague on May 13th.

* * *

Catholics rally in Berlin

180,000 Roman Catholics from both East and West Germany will meet in Berlin from August 19th to 25th 1952 for the 75th German Catholic Conference.

The government of the German Democratic Republic and the authorities in East Berlin have promised their full support to the conference.

A similar rally of members of the Evangelical Church from East and West Germany was held in both halves of Berlin in 1951.

* * *

Police seize Shakespeare

West Berlin police confiscated the travelling lending library of the Berlin Tramways on March 17th, when the tramcar which houses the library entered the American sector of the city by error.

Among the several thousand books confiscated were works by Shakespeare, Goethe and Thackeray.

* * *

Children's Train

Railway-workers at Erfurt, East Germany, have repaired and equipped a thirteen-carriage train in their spare time as a travelling holiday home for children. During the summer months the train will serve as mobile hotel for relays of children, including hundreds of guests from West Germany.

RIBBENTROP'S MEN PACK FOREIGN MINISTRY

Jew-baiters and Gangsters in leading West German posts

Every department of the West German Foreign Office in the Koblenzer Strasse in Bonn is bulging with old nazis who used to work for Ribbentrop, the latest statistics show.

Apologists for the West German government try to claim that this is not important, stating that Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry shared no responsibility for the crimes committed by Hitler and the S. S.

The files of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, which can be consulted in the Bavarian State Archives, 17 Archivstrasse, Nuremberg, West Germany, by anyone interested, tell a different story. All quotations given below come from those files.

"Natural Shrinkage"

Here for instance is an excerpt from the infamous "Wansee Protocol", drawn up at a meeting in Berlin in April 1941 presided over by S S. chief Heidrich:

"The Jews are to be deported to the occupied eastern territories, where they are to be used for very hard labour. A large proportion will doubtless be eliminated as a result of natural shrinkage. The survivors, who, as the most resistant, might form the starting point for a revival of the Jewish race, will have to be suitably dealt with."

The Wansee Protocol was circulated in the Foreign Ministry and initialled by many men today sitting in Bonn or in West German embassies abroad.

"Systematic clean-up"

Here is another report which all leading officials noted and initialled:

"The systematic clean-up in the east includes to the highest degree possible the complete elimination of the Jews. This aim has been achieved in the main except in White Russia. Details are as follows:

***Estonia.** In 1940 there were 4500 Jews in Estonia. Today there are none.*

***Latvia.** When German troops marched in there were 70,000 Jews in Latvia. Up to October special commandos had executed 30,000.*

***Lithuania.** In a series of individual actions a total of 136,421 Jews have been liquidated.*

***White Russia.** The final elimination of the Jews here presents certain difficulties since the Jews form a very high proportion of the skilled workers. In addition the special troops reached this territory after the frosts had begun. Frost makes mass executions very difficult, since it prevents mass graves being dug."*

Crimes in Belgium

And here are the individual records of some of the men who not only saw and initialled such documents, but who helped to draw them up:

Werner von Bargen, Minister for Special Duties in the Legal Department of the West German Foreign Ministry.

During the war he was Foreign Ministry representative attached to Military Government in Belgium. In this capacity he made the following report to Ribbentrop on November 11th 1942:

"As a result of the steps taken against the Jews by the military commander, 15,000 men women and children have been transported to the east. They were originally called up for forced labour, but when rumours began to spread that the Jews were being slaughtered etc., they ceased to obey the call-up notices. Since that time speedy individual actions have been taken to net the Jews.

(signed) von Bargen."

"Up to the Urals" Hallstein rattles sabre

"The final aim of the European policy of my government is the unity of Europe up to the Urals" stated Walter Hallstein, West German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at a press conference in Washington on March 12th.

(The Urals lie 2000 miles east of the German frontier, deep in the Soviet Union. They are 600 miles east of Stalingrad, furthest point reached by Hitler's troops.)

Hallstein's open call for the partitioning of the Soviet Union, expressed in almost the same words as those used ten years ago by Hitler and Goebbels, raised a storm of protest in West Germany.

The West German Social Democratic Party demanded that Hallstein be forbidden to make public statements, and dozens of progressive organisations and trade union branches called for his dismissal.

On April 6th 1944 the same man sent a top secret telegram from Paris to the Foreign Ministry, stating:

"All persons arrested for dissidence or resistance who would be suitable subjects for reprisal actions have been sent to Germany. The prisoners held here are of no importance. The S.S. Obergruppenfuehrer suggests that the Foreign Ministry should obtain a list of suitable persons from the Reich Security Office, and that further treatment should be giuen without delay in Berlin.

(signed) von Bargen."

Murder in Denmark

Werner Ferdinand Karl Alexander von Grundherr, West German Minister in Athens.

Under Ribbentrop he headed the Scandinavian section of the Foreign Ministry. When, during the war, Sweden offered to give refuge to Jewish children from Denmark, Grundherr signed the cable turning down the offer.

When S S General Werner Best, nazi governor of occupied Denmark, reported that he intended to deport 6000 Jews with their wives and children to the gas-ovens, Grundherr cabled back "How many S. S. men do you need?"

In the Nuremberg trials he testified that he had given the first financial assistance to Quisling, Norwegian traitor.

Lublin Ghetto

Dr. Emil von Rintelen, Professor at the West German Diplomatic Academy, Speyer.

During Hitler's war he was Foreign Ministry representative with the Wehrmacht in Rumania. On August 1942 he cabled Ribbentrop:

"Transportation of Jews from Rumania begins on September 10th. They will be taken to the Lublin ghetto. Those capable of work will be sent to forced labour, the remainder will receive special treatment. Please give your approval to these proceedings."

Helping the Mufti

Wilhelm Melchers, leading official in the Personnel Department, West German Foreign Ministry.

One-time nazi consul in Haifa, Palestine, and later head of the

Oriental Department of Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry. During the war had frequent conferences with Grand Mufti Haj Amin Husseini.

Evidence was given at the Nuremberg War Crimes trials that at one such conference the Mufti asked him to intervene to frustrate plans made by S. S. officials to allow 600 Jewish children to reach safety in Palestine. The children were not allowed to leave German territory, and were gassed.

Subsidising U. S. Firms

Counsellor von Strempel, official of the Political Department, West German Foreign Ministry.

Served as Embassy Secretary in the German Embassy in Washington during the nazi period. Confessed at the Nuremberg trials that he had spent 190,000 dollars as support for fascist publishers in the United States.

Stealing Pictures

Hasso von Etzdorf, Official of the "Laender" Department of the West German Foreign Ministry.

Joined the nazi party on January 30th 1933, the day on which Hitler came to power. As Foreign Ministry representative in France during the nazi occupation, he took a leading part in stealing French art treasures. He confessed to such activities at the Nuremberg trials.

Political Unreliability?

Dr. Kurt von Kamphoevener, West German Consul General in Ankara.

Chief of the cable department in Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry. At the Nuremberg trials he testified:

"I joined the nazi party in 1942 because that was the only way I could satisfy my dearest wish — to be sent to the front."

In an official biography of von Kamphoevener issued by the West German press office the claim is made that he was "sent to the front for political unreliability."

"Hitler a Criminal"

Erich Kordt, Professor at the West German Diplomatic Academy, Speyer.

Personal assistant to Ribbentrop for many years, Obersturmbannfuehrer in the S. S. and during the war member of the staff of the Central Personnel Department of the S. S. At his denazification trial after 1945 he declared:

"As early as 1930 it became clear to me that Hitler was a criminal."

Felix Gaerte, Official of the Legal Department of the West German Foreign Ministry.

In 1933 organised the Hitler Youth movement in Switzerland. Later leading official in the central S. S. "Racial and Resettlement Department."

•

That is a short selection of the names. There is not space to give them all. In the Personnel Department of the West German Foreign Office 14 of the 19 main officials are former nazis, for instance. In the Political Department all ten main officials are former nazis and former members of Ribbentrop's staff. In Legal Department and the Commerce Department the position is the same.

Small Fry

In conclusion, here is a short list of some of the "smaller fish", all of them today employed by the Bonn Foreign Ministry in various capacities:

Wilhelm Damen, former political leader of the nazi party in Prague.

Viktor Damerau, district nazi party leader in Turkey.

Gottfried Kiwitt, nazi party finance officer in Paris.

Ernst Linberg, chief of the central office of the nazi party in Italy.

Franz Marks, nazi party cell leader in Tientsin, China.

Josef Merfels, head of the nazi party group in Tirana, Albania.

Ewald Muehlen, political leader of the nazi party group in Denmark.

Christian Muesch, nazi party organiser in Palermo, Italy.

Paul Nageler, nazi block-leader in Barcelona, Spain.

Hans Papenfuss, chief of nazi training in La Paz, Bolivia.

Ludwig Schlich, organisational chief of the nazi group in Denmark.

Bernhard Schrenzel, leading official of nazi party group in Great Britain, liaison officer between the embassy and the party group.

Wilhelm Schuetterle, nazi block-leader in Naples, Italy.

Karl Stark, deputy nazi party head in Beirut, Lebanon.

P. S. In the Foreign Ministry of the German Democratic Republic there is not one single employee, from Minister to porter, who formerly worked in Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry.

S. S. Men in Egypt, charges West German paper

Two of the worst S. S. officers, whose conduct even shocked other nazis, are now serving in the Egyptian army as advisers, the independent West German newspaper "Frankfurter Rundschau" disclosed on March 22nd.

The paper hinted that the two men, S. S. Obersturmbannführer Dirlewanger and S. S. Obergruppenführer Eichmann, were being protected by old friends in the Foreign Ministry, who had been their accomplices during the war.

Dirlewanger commanded an extermination squad on the Eastern Front during the war, and the records of the Nuremberg War Crimes trials show that an S. S. judge named Konrad Morgen made the following report on his conduct:

"Dirlewanger is a plague. He has repeatedly raided the Lublin ghetto and demanded personal ransom sums of up to 15,000 zloty. He has young Jewesses arrested, then invites in some friends and has them stripped and whipped for his amusement. The Jewesses then receive a strychnine injection, and the guests watch them die."

In 1943 Dirlewanger was decorated by Hitler with the German Cross in Gold.

Eichmann was in charge of Jewish affairs in the Central Reich Security Office, and prided himself upon the fact that he had "perfected" the gas-chambers in the extermination camp of Auschwitz. The files of the Nuremberg Court contain many hundreds of documents proving his crimes, and showing for instance that he delivered to the Reichsbank big quantities of gold recovered from the tooth fillings of his millions of victims.

EAST GERMANY TAKES WAR CRIMES SERIOUSLY

The East German Supreme Court has cancelled the sentence passed on a war criminal because it was too light, and returned the case for retrial.

The war criminal, Karl Elie, was sentenced to five years ten months imprisonment last year by a court in the German Democratic Republic for crimes against humanity. Evidence was given that Elie had operated a special "Gas-waggon" used for massacring Jews in the Lodz district during the war.

FRAU GLAUSER TAKES OVER IN THE FOUNDRY

From scrubbing brush to rolling-mill

Less than six months ago Frau Margarete Glauser, a jolly faired-haired woman of thirty, was a cleaner in the huge Max Foundry in Thuringia. Today she stands at the control wheel of one of the rolling mills, guiding the flow of the red-hot strips of steel.

How did it happen? A lot of women work in a big factory like the Max Foundry, which was formerly owned by war-criminal Flick. Most of them work as cleaners, kitchen helpers, canteen girls, and in a dozen other more or less unskilled trades.

Last autumn some of these women put their heads together. They had all read the constitution of the German Democratic Republic guaranteeing them equal rights. They had listened to speeches about the Five Year Plan explaining that hundreds of thousands of women were needed in the factories to help push up production and make life better and easier for all.

They got together and grumbled a bit, and then they went to see Markowitsch, staff chief. They did not want to stay cleaners all their lives, they wanted to learn to do something useful, they explained.

Markowitsch listened to them carefully, and when their spokesman had finished he smacked himself reproachfully on the forehead.

"I am a prize dope" he said. "Here I have been scouring the district looking for workers, scraping the bottom of the barrel, and I have dozens of potential engineers sweeping the floors all around me."

And then and there Markowitsch got down to the job of helping them. The great question was how to turn the women, most of whom had never touched a tool or a machine, into semi-skilled and skilled workers as quickly as possible.

Markowitsch called on the trade union and the Free German Youth for help. Active members came forward and volunteered to help with the training, and within a few days of the first proposal being made proper contracts had been drawn up between the women and the factory. Here is one of these contracts:

"The training of working women in all professions is a contribution to the struggle for German unity and for peace. For the first time in German history, equal rights are guaranteed to women.

Recognising the importance of this development, the Max Foundry, rolling-mill department, concludes the following agreement with

Margarete Glauser, born 8. 4. 22. No trade, at present cleaner.

1) The chief of the rolling-mill department pledges himself to see that Frau Glauser is qualified as a crane-operator in the course of three months.

The following training will be provided:

a) Servicing electric aggregates, utilising the capacity of the crane. Heinz Fassbender responsible for training.

b) Accident prevention, security. Heinz Fassbender.

c) Trade union schooling. Franz Beigang.

2) Frau Glauser will begin her training on 18. 10. 51 and complete it on 17. 1. 52.

3) Frau Glauser pledges herself to devote all her energy to completing the training plan in order to be able to play an active part in completing our plan of peace.

4) The chief of the rolling-mill department pledges himself to release crane-operator Oswald Dietzel for another job when the training of Frau Glauser is completed."

Frau Glauser has had a tough time all her life. She was a farm labourer in Silesia until she had to leave because of the war. The whole responsibility for her two children rests on her shoulders, for her husband, badly wounded in the war, is a permanent invalid.

Since she signed her training contract she has blossomed out. She has a good eye and a quick hand, and the huge cranes of the rolling mill were soon child's play for her. The big rise in pay was a great help at home, too.

One month ago, on February 21st, she went to staff chief Markowitsch and signed another contract to train for work on the rolling mill itself. She does not intend to stop there either, and she has signed on for technical evening school courses. Her aim? She wants to be a rolling mill technician, and they are betting long odds in the mill that she will make it.

So far, a total of 58 women have signed up to learn a trade.

There have been difficulties of course. A lot of the men, ranging from department heads to stokers, grumbled at the presence of the women. "Just new fangled nonsense" they said.

But the women volunteers did not allow themselves to be browbeaten or laughed at, and the male jeers soon stopped.

Markowitsch the staff chief has only one worry. If all the cleaners train to become engineers, who is going to clean the factory?

"But I don't worry about it too much" he says. "For the time being we can find enough recruits to do the unskilled work and keep up the supply of trainees. By the time the situation gets really critical, we shall simply have to mechanise the work of cleaning the floors."

(Based on an article by Jan Koplowitz.)

There is work for all in the German Democratic Republic, and many important jobs do not get done because there is no-one available to do them.

To fill the gap, more and more women are being encouraged to go into industry, to learn a trade, and to work alongside the men in all trades, with the exception of mining and other particularly strenuous or unhealthy jobs.

They get equal pay, of course, and the men have no fear of being thrown out of work by cheap female labour. The influx of women, apart from filling gaps, has also freed thousands of men for more responsible jobs, and consequently bigger earnings.

Women in the West . . .

In West Berlin women earn on an average 35.2 percent less than men, official statistics published by the West Berlin authorities show.

In the food trade their wages are 45.5 percent lower than for men, and in the printing trade they are 46.7 percent lower.

The reference in the West Berlin Constitution to "equal rights for women" did not apply to wages, the West Berlin wage tribunal decided last month.

. . . and the East

In the German Democratic Republic women hold the following posts and the proportion of women in leading positions is steadily increasing.

4 Secretaries of State

2 Ministers in provincial governments

626 Mayors

25 percent of all members of parliament and local councils

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Just seven years ago, on April 12th 1945, there was a strange parade near the town of Weimar in central Germany.

21,000 living skeletons in coarse striped pyjama-like uniforms marched and limped proudly past the saluting base, singing at the tops of their voices the songs of freedom which they had only whispered for many years.

There were Polish songs, German songs, French songs, and songs from America and Britain too. One of the men on the saluting base, healthy and trim in contrast with the ragged marchers, was an American combat officer, and he held a short speech.

"Fight side by side"

"I greet you, and congratulate you on your liberation" he said. "By your fight, through your suffering, you have helped us to defeat our common enemy. Let us go on to fight side by side so that fascism and war may be banished."

He held that little speech in the concentration camp Buchenwald. A few hours earlier the prisoners themselves, led by an international committee in which anti-fascists from France, Germany and Russia served side by side, had liberated the camp, killing or imprisoning the SS guards.

The 21,000 men who marched were the survivors. As they marched they thought of their dead comrades: the 51,000 who in Buchenwald alone had been hanged, kicked to death, starved, drowned and poisoned.

Just a reminder

I am not raking up old history to make people hate the Germans, but to remind you what some people, people who are becoming powerful again in West Germany, did in the name of the Germans. Details of some of these people are given on another page of this issue.

On that April day seven years ago the battered, starved survivors of Buchenwald did not hate the Germans as a nation. They hated the fascists and the militarists of all nations. They showed in the clearest possible way their confidence in the German anti-nazi fighters by naming a German as president of the international camp committee, the committee which directed the affairs of the camp in the weeks following liberation.

Today this German, Walter Bartel, whose spirit was not broken by 12 years of torture and imprisonment, is personal assistant to Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic.

Times pro-Marx?

"East Zone Revises Marx and Engels—German Reds' Purge of Books" trumpeted the New York Times on March 15th in headlines. The story which followed, signed by Martin S. Ochs, stated:

"The Communist large scale purge of 'unsuitable' books in Eastern Germany, now being quietly investigated by United States officials here at the request of the State Department, has reached the very roots of communism —Marx and Engels themselves.

"The background of the action is that the works of Marx and Engels in their, original form have been stricken from the publishing lists, according to United States officials."

It is an interesting story, even a sensational story. It has in fact only one fault—it is completely and utterly untrue. If the United States officials would stop "quietly investigating", and if Mr. Ochs had troubled to check the official handout he was given, they could have discovered with no difficulty at all that the story had no basis.

If Mr. Ochs had jumped into his car, or taken the subway and come to the Democratic Sector of the city, he could have gone into any bookstore and had a look at the "purge" for himself.

I rang him up on March 19th to ask him if he had tried to check the information before sending it. "I have nothing to add to my story" he said bleakly.

I have just walked round one of the biggest book-shops in East Berlin. On sale, and selling steadily, are such books as Marx's classic "Das Kapital" in three thumping volumes. The text is an exact reprint of the first German edition published some eighty odd years ago.

Heavy and light

All the other major works of both Marx and Engels are on sale, including the full and enormously entertaining correspondence between the two men over a period of nearly forty years.

Just incidentally, heavy works of economics and philosophy are by no means all that you can buy in the bookshops here. I staggered out of the shop I just visited carrying the following:

Cervantes "Don Quixote" in a beautifully illustrated two volume edition.

An assorted handful of new editions of works by Arnold Zweig (Sergeant Grisha), Heinrich Mann (The Blue Angel), and Maxim Gorki (Mother).

"Peekskill U. S. A." by Howard Fast.

A cheap paper-covered edition of "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy.

There was not a single book in the whole shop with a title like "Victory through Air Power", or "Hitler's Generals".

Correction please

But to get back to Marx and Engels. It is touching to find the New York Times so concerned about the works of the fathers of modern Socialism, particularly at a time when their works are often produced in court in the United States as incriminating evidence.

If Mr. Ochs, or his successor in Berlin Mr. Walter Sullivan, would care to show me any concrete evidence to back the statements "East Zone revises Marx and Engels", or "the works of Marx and Engels in their original form have been stricken from the publishing lists", I shall be glad to publish a correction.

If he cannot support his charge, I hope he will write a correction for the New York Times, and that the Times will print it.

But perhaps the bright spring sunshine is just making me naive and hopeful.

Radio opera

A number of readers have asked for the times and wavelengths of English radio programmes from the German Democratic Republic. At present there are no regular English transmissions but you can hear Berlin daily from 0500 GMT to 0100 GMT on 383.6 metres (782 kc) and 191.1 metres (1570 kc). Deutschlandsender transmits at the same time on 1621.6 metres (185 kc), 49.06 metres (6115 kc) and 41.96 metres (7150 kc).

"Wat Tyler", a new opera by the British composer Alan Bush, will be given its world premiere on Berlin Radio at 1815 GMT on April 3rd, with a repeat performance on Deutschlandsender at 1845 GMT on April 18th.

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